

By this method every word will have its history, and the reader will be informed of the gradual changes of the language, and have before his eyes the rise of some words, and the fall of others. But observations so minute and accurate are to be desired rather than expected, and if use be carefully supplied, curiosity must sometimes bear its disappointments.

THIS, my Lord, is my idea of an English dictionary, a dictionary by which the pronunciation of our language may be fixed, and its attainment facilitated; by which its purity may be preserved, its use ascertained, and its duration lengthened. And though, perhaps, to correct the language of nations by books of grammar, and amend their manners by discourses of morality, may be tasks equally difficult; yet as it is unavoidable to wish, it is natural likewise to hope, that your Lordship's patronage may not be wholly lost; that it may contribute to the preservation of antient, and the improvement of modern writers; that it may promote the reformation of those translators, who for want of understanding the characteristical difference of tongues, have formed a chaotic dialect of heterogeneous phrases; and awaken to the care of purer diction, some men of genius, whose attention to argument makes them negligent of style, or whose rapid imagination, like the Peruvian torrents, when it brings down gold, mingles it with sand.

WHEN

WHEN I survey the  
I cannot, my Lord,  
at its extent, and,  
on Britain as a new  
ness to invade. But  
complete the conquest  
coast, civilize part  
easy for some other  
reduce them wholly  
under laws.

WE are taught  
every man should  
gree of excellence, but  
the second or the third  
mance should fall  
dictionaries, I may  
having endeavoured  
proach to my diligence  
a triumph from a  
long successions of  
in the warmest mon  
through so long a  
negligence, or to  
its parts, as not  
I expect that some  
urge me to superflu  
prolixity betray me